

App. No. 09/975,649  
Response to October 21, 2003 Office Action

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Group Art Unit 3677

In re Patent Application of:

James R. Edgar

Serial No.: 09/975,649

Filed: October 11, 2001

Confirmation No.: 8597

Examiner: Gary Wayne Estremsky

Title: "LATCH APPARATUS AND METHOD"

I, Ellen R. Webb, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date of my signature.

Signature

January 21, 2004  
Date of Signature

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RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

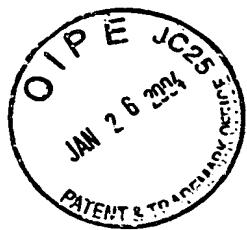
This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated October 21, 2003 issued with respect to the above-referenced application, is further to the Examiner's Interview with the undersigned Applicant's Representative on January 21, 2004, and is filed within the three-month shortened statutory period set for response to the Office Action. Accordingly, no extension of time fee or petition is required for filing this Amendment.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 14 of this paper and include attached replacement sheets.

**Remarks** begin on page 15 of this paper.



AG3671

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METHOD"

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application. No additional claim or extension fees are necessary. In the event Applicant has overlooked the need to request an extension of time, please consider this such a request. Please charge or credit Deposit Account No. 13-3080 with any shortage or overpayment of the fees associated with this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher B. Austin  
Reg. No. 41,592

File No. 87801-9015-00

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